

## Summary of DAT Conference Call 12/4/2007

Participants: EChappell(DWR), JSpeegle(FWS),  
JWhite(DFG), AChu(DWR), JSnow(WWD),  
LBartoo(FWS), NHindman(FWS), KCrosby(BR),  
BOppenheim(NOAA), TBoardman(SLDMWA),  
TWashburn(BR), THinojosa(DWR), PBrandes(FWS),  
TSwanson(BI), BPoytress(FWS), JLeahigh(DWR),  
RShahcheraghi(DWR)

### Conclusions and Recommendation

For 2007, the September FMWT index for delta smelt is 9, the October index is 4, and the November index is 5. DFG started the December survey today, 12/4.

According to the Chinook Salmon Decision Process, the salmon biologists will recommend closing the DCC gates starting December 1<sup>st</sup> for the protection of spring-run yearlings unless there is a water quality issue. However, at this time the salmon biologists are not recommending closing the DCC gates for the following reasons: 1) while the first alert, yearling spring-run observed leaving Mill Creek, was triggered on October 16<sup>th</sup> neither the second or third alerts have been triggered; 2) only one older juvenile Chinook was caught in the Knights Landing rotary screw last week; 3) the salmon CVPIA Delta Action 8 Experiment (DA8) releases will start today, 12/4, and the DA8 protocol specifies the DCC gates to be open; 4) the salmon biologists agreed that the benefit of the information gained from the DA8 experiment outweighed possible impacts to the few older juvenile Chinook expected to pass the DCC gates during this period. The biologist will reconsider this recommendation if the catch index is triggered at Knights Landing, the Sacramento Trawl, or the Sacramento Area beach seine during the DA8 experiment.

**Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 12/11/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. 916/657-4111.**

### Chinook Monitoring

#### Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – For the last two weeks winter-run passage averaged 3,450 per day. So far passage this season is 1.4 million.

Late fall Chinook passage averaged 326 per day. Spring Chinook passage increased averaging 2100 per day as did fall Chinook passage which averaged 599 per day. Steelhead passage remains low averaging 31 per day. Flows at Bend Bridge are stable around 6,200cfs.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at [http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special\\_Reports/red\\_bluff.php](http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php).

Mill Creek – The catch was similar to last week. DFG caught 41 yearling spring-run and 5 steelhead. Flows are low and stable.

Deer Creek – DFG will install the rotary screw trap once the flows increase.

Butte Creek – DFG installed the Diversion rotary screw trap on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Since then, they have caught one steelhead on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Flows are low so the trap is not fishing efficiently.

GCID – For the period of 12/1 to 12/3, the catch of older juvenile Chinook ranged from 14 to 23 per day. The catch of fry Chinook increased ranging from 1 to 6 per day. The catch of adclipped Chinook peaked on December 1<sup>st</sup> and ranged from 4 to 95 per day.

Knights Landing – DFG caught one older juvenile Chinook last week.

#### Delta Monitoring

In the last week, FWS caught one splittail in the Chipps Island trawl. No Chinook, delta smelt, or steelhead were caught.

Sacramento Kodiak Trawl - 3 sample days, 30 samples. No species of interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 3 samples. No species of interest.

Sacramento Area seine – 3 sample days, 18 samples. No species of interest.

North Delta seine - 1 sample day, 7 samples. No species of interest.

Central Delta seine - 1 sample day, 9 samples. No species of interest.

South Delta seine - 1 sample day, 5 samples. No species of interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl - 3 sample days, 30 samples. No species of interest.

San Joaquin River seine - 1 sample day, 1 sample. No species of interest.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl - 3 sample days, 39 samples. FWS caught one splittail but no other species of interest.

Bay seine - 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Action 8 – This first group of acoustically tagged Chinook will be released at Sacramento today, 12/4. The second group of acoustically tagged Chinook will be released at Georgiana Slough on Thursday, 12/6. FWS will release the CWT Chinook starting on Thursday, 12/6. The DA8 protocol specifies the DCC gates to be open until December 15<sup>th</sup>, if possible.

Spring Surrogate Releases – FWS released the first spring-run surrogate group of approximately 161,400 late-fall Chinook last week. The incidental take level at the Delta Fish Facilities for this release group is 1% of the total release.

#### Delta Smelt Monitoring

FMWT – DFG completed the November survey. They caught a total of 4 delta smelt. The November delta smelt index is 5. The indices for the September, October, and November surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/mwt/>. DFG started the December survey today, 12/4 and the survey will run through December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Salvage Facilities –

Chinook – None.

Steelhead – None.

Delta smelt – None.

Splittail – SWP salvaged 12 splittail in the last week for a season total of 21.

Longfin smelt - None.

Sturgeon – None.

The DFG Salvage Database is available on the DFG ftp site (<ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>).

## Head of Old River and Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier was completely removed on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The contractor is still dressing up the site.

Ag. Barriers – The Old River barrier was completely removed on November 18<sup>th</sup> but works continues on the levee road and rock storage. The Middle River barrier was completely removed and the site cleaned-up on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Grantline barrier was completely removed on November 29<sup>th</sup> but work continues on the levee road and replacing the buoys.

## Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 2,500cfs.

Oroville - 2,050cfs.

X2 - > 81 km.

E/I - 3-day ~49%

San Luis - ~563taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - Preliminary debt estimates as of the end of October are in the range of 30 to 50taf for SWP and approximately 20 to 30taf for CVP. DWR continues to finalize the numbers.

## CVP -

Tracy PP - 3,700cfs.

DCC - open.

Trinity - 300cfs.

Clear Creek - 200cfs.

Keswick – 5,100cfs.

Nimbus – 1,135cfs. The power bypass ended on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> as the water temperature dropped below 56F.

Goodwin – 280cfs.

San Luis - 495taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

## Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 10,038cfs.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 1,358cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 3,655cfs. The 7-day average is 3,800cfs.

## Delta Water Quality

The Delta is in balanced conditions. Water quality is okay.

## December Water Quality Standards –

Delta Outflow – monthly average  $\geq 4,500$ cfs, 7-day average  $\geq 3,500$ cfs.

Delta Cross Channel – The gates may be closed for up to 45 days for the protection of Chinook between November 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>.

E/I Ratio – 65%

Rio Vista – monthly average  $\geq 4,500$ cfs, 7-day average  $\geq 3,500$ cfs.

Contra Costa Canal – CI  $\leq 250$  mg/L. In addition, CI  $\leq 150$  mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for the year.

South Delta – 30-day average EC  $\leq 1.0$ .

Suisun Marsh -  $\leq 15.5$ mS/cm.

Final copies of the DAT notes are now available on the CALFED Operations website at

<http://www.woco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/datsummaries.html>.

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# Special Species Salvage

From 23-Nov-07 to 28-Nov-07

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Splittail	SWP				CVP
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	SampleDate	Salvage	Acre Feet	Salvage	Acre Feet
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	11/23/2007	9	5437	0	
	11/25/2007	6	6424	0	
	11/26/2007	3	5699	0	
	11/28/2007	3	5791	0	
Total for Splittail		21	23351	0	